

Abstract 201

TITLE: Inclusion of Adolescents in HIV Research

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Access to research participation and the benefits of participation for individuals and groups they represent have moved to the forefront of ethical debate. Federal regulations guarantee access to research for women, minorities, and, recently, children. Despite these, adolescents are routinely excluded from health research from which they may benefit. Barriers to adolescent participation in research include federal regulations which do not fully recognize minor adolescents as distinct from children, incompatibility between federal regulations regarding research and state laws that allow minors access to reproductive health services, and parental and community concern about independent adolescent consent procedures.

This session will discuss ethical and legal issues influencing the appropriate inclusion of adolescents in HIV research including the definition of children in the federal regulations and regulatory requirements for waiver of parental permission. The 1995 Guidelines for Adolescent Health Research, designed to increase appropriate adolescent research participation, will be reviewed. Practical guidance on dealing with Institutional Review Boards will be also provided.

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